

Thomas Jefferson to Washington, D.C., Commissioners, April 5, 1792, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Jefferson to the Commissioners JEFFERSON TO THE COMMISSIONERS

Philadelphia, April 5th 1792

Gentlemen

I now send you 500 obligations for your Signature. should Mr. Johnson not be with you it will be proper to send them to him by express, as soon they have received all your signatures if you will be so good as to return them to me, the business shall be finally compleated. I received yesterday yours of March 30 & laid it immediately before the President. tho' he thinks the estimate of the Bridge very high, yet not doubting you have satisfied yourself, by proper enquiry, he approves of the Contract. Indeed he thinks and wishes that having once consulted him, on the works to be undertaken, you would make your contracts, and proceed in the execution, without farther reference to him; as he has perfect confidence in the endeavours you will use, to do every thing in the best way possible, and he has hardly time to attend to any details, he thinks that if you were to reduce the foot ways, of the bridge to 6 feet each, and make the Carriage way 26 feet, it might be better.

I have the honor to be with great esteem and respect Gentlemen

Your mo. &c

Th: Jefferson

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P.S. — I notify Mr. Herbaugh by this Post.

[Pp. 85–6, COMMISSIONERS' LETTERBOOK Vol. I, 1791–1793, in the National Archives.]